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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 392, OCTOBER 19, NOON

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SENT BONN 346, DEPARTMENT 392, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON
 113, PARIS 103, MOSCOW 125, POLAD USAREUR 32.

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PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND CINCEUR THURSTON AND FINN.

REFERENCE: OURTEL 337 TO BONN, 378 TO DEPARTMENT.

AT POLADS MEETING OCT 17 U.S. ANALYSIS FLAG INCIDENT INCLUDED THESE POINTS:

1) GDR INSTIGATED INCIDENT IN EFFORT GIVE SUBSTANCE COMMUNIST
 CONTENTION BERLIN IS TINDERBOX.

2) FUTURE COMMUNIST PROVOCATIONS--AND IN VIEW OF ALLIED
 COMMANDANTS' TWO DEMARCHES THIS MEANS PARTICULARLY A
 REPETITION OF FLAG-FLYING--MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY AND
 DECISIVELY. OTHERWISE COMMUNISTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED STAGE
 FURTHER AND MORE DANGEROUS PROVOCATIONS, AND SOVS DETECTING
 WESTERN WEAKNESS WILL PROVE MORE INTRACTABLE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS
 OVER BERLIN RESUMED.

FRENCH AGREED WITH U.S. ANALYSIS.

BRITISH POLAD, WHO HAD THAT MORNING RETURNED FROM
 CONSULTATION WITH HIS EMBASSY BONN, GAVE BRITISH ANALYSIS
 AS FOLLOWS:

1) IN FLAG INCIDENT GDR INTENDED NO RPT NO PROVOCATION;
 GDR FLAGS FLOWN OVER S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN WITH NO CONSCIOUS
 RELIZATION TROUBLE WOULD ENSUE.

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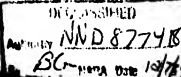
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2) ACTION AGAINST FUTURE FLYING OF GDR FLAGS IN WEST BERLIN, INCLUDING S-BAHN, SHOULD BE CONSONANT WITH WHAT BONN DOES AGAINST GDR FLAGS IN FFDRFP. (U.S. AND FRENCH POLADS STATED THEY SAW NO RPT NO CONNECTION.)

3) IN VIEW OF ALLIED COMMANDANTS' DEMARCHES BRITISH RECOGNIZED SOME ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IF FLAGS FLOWN AGAIN, BUT WANTED JUST THE MINIMUM NEEDED TO SAVE FACE.

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT REACHED ON FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS:

1) GDR WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY FLY THEIR FLAGS OVER S-BAHN PROPERTY IN WEST BERLIN IN CONNECTION NOV 7 HOLIDAY. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES FLAGS WOULD FLY FROM NOON NOV 6 TO 7 A.M. NOV 8.

2) POLICE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT MAKING FURTHER PROTEST TO SOVS.

3) ALLIED TROOPS WILL NOT TAKE PART IN OR BE PRESENT AT POLICE ACTIONS--EXCEPT IN HIGHLY UNLIKELY CONTINGENCY POLICE UNABLE HANDLE SITUATIONS.

SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT DEVELOPED BETWEEN POLADS OVER SCOPE OF CONTEMPLATED POLICE ACTION.

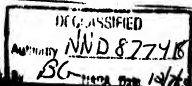
U.S. POLAD POSITION AS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL.

BRITISH WILLING AUTHORIZE ONLY THE FOLLOWING:

1) REMOVE ALL FLAGS ZONE ONE (FOR DEFINITION OF ZONES SEE OURTEL 311 TO BONN, 353 TO DEPT); 2) REMOVE "SOME BUT NOT ALL" FLAGS ZONE TWO (I.E., TOKEN REMOVAL); 3) REMOVE NO RPT NO FLAGS ZONE THREE. POLICE TO BE COMMITTED IN MINIMUM FORCE. IF POLICE MEET WITH RESISTANCE THEY ARE TO WITHDRAW AND ALLIED COMMANDANTS WILL MEET TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT--PROBABLY, BRITISH POLAD SAID, SEND PROTEST TO SOVS.

FRENCH WANT POLICE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ONLY SELECTED

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TARGETS--SAY TWENTY TO THIRTY OF THE EIGHTY-ODD S-BAHN STATIONS--
AND AT THESE TARGETS REMOVE FLAGS IN ZONES ONE AND TWO BUT
NOT RPT NOT ZONE THREE. FRENCH BELIEVED POLICE SHOULD BE
COMMITTED IN SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO INSURE SUCCESS.

POLADS AGREED (AND COMMANDANT'S LATER APPROVED) FOLLOWING
ACTIONS:

1) POLADS MEET WITH INTERIOR SENATOR LIPSCHITZ MORNING
OCT 19 TO REQUEST THAT POLICE SUBMIT BY OCT 21 REVISED
DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION COVERING REMOVAL ALL FLAGS FROM ALL
ZONES WITHOUT PARTICIPATION ALLIED FORCES. (LIPSCHITZ, AT
BRITISH INSISTENCE, TO BE INFORMED PLAN FOR STUDY PURPOSES;
COMMANDANTS HAVE NOT DECIDED ON SCOPE OF ACTION.) PLAN TO
BE REVIEWED BY ALLIED PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY OFFICERS FOR
SUBMISSION TO COMMANDANTS OCT 26.

2) ON OCT 22 MAYOR BRANDT TO GIVE COMMANDANTS AND DEPUTY
COMMANDANTS BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS. AFTERWARDS, COMMANDANTS
AND DEPUTIES TO DISCUSS ISSUES POLADS COULD NOT RESOLVE.
(IMPRACTICAL MEET BEFORE OCT 22 IN ABSENCE FRENCH COMMANDANT
AND HIS DEPUTY.)

ASSUME BRITISH FRENCH POSITIONS BASED ON FONOFF INSTRUCTIONS
AND THEREFORE FLEXIBILITY HERE LIMITED. NEVERTHELESS
BELIEVE ANY REPRESENTATION LONDON PARIS SHOULD AWAIT RESULTS
OCT 22 COMMANDANTS' MEETING.

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